

REMARKS

The claims are claims 1, 4 to 14, 16 to 23, 25 to 27, 48 and 49.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 23 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 15 and 24 are newly canceled. Claims 48 and 49 are added. Claim 1 is amended to include limitations of canceled claims 2 and 3. Claims 4 and 6 are amended to depend upon claim 1 rather than canceled claim 3. Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 are amended into independent form incorporating the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 14 is amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 15. Claim 23 is amended to include limitations of canceled claim 23. Claim 25 is amended into independent form incorporating the limitations of base claim 23. New claims 48 and 49 correspond to claims 26 and 27 except dependent upon amended claim 25.

Paragraph 12 of page 5 of the OFFICE ACTION stated that claims 3 to 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claim.

Claim 1 now recites subject matter of claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Claim 1 and dependent claims 4 to 6 are thus allowable. Claims 10 and 11 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 1.

Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their base claim 1. These claims are thus allowable.

Claim 14 now recites subject matter of claim 15 rewritten in independent form. These claims are thus allowable. Claims 16 to 22 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 14.

Claim 23 now recites subject matter of claim 24 rewritten in independent form. Claim 23 is thus allowable. Claims 26 and 27 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 23.

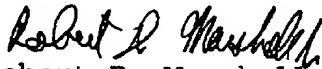
Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of base claim 23. Claim 25 is thus allowable. Claims 48 and 49 are allowable by dependence upon allowable claim 25.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,


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